

TOWN OF ALLENSTOWN
Budget Committee
Public Hearing
16 School Street
Allenstown, New Hampshire 03275
January 11, 2014

Call to Order.

The Allenstown Budget Committee Public Hearing for January 11, 2014 was called to order by the Chair at 9:07am.

Roll Call.

Present on the Board: Dave Coolidge, Mike Frascinella, Jeff Gryval, Andrea Martel, Dave Eaton, Larry Anderson, Carl Caporale, and Deb Carney.

Excused: Carol Merrill, Jerry McKenney, and Chris Lavalley.

Unexcused: Roger LaFleur and Penny Touchette

Others Present.

Residents of Allenstown: Kim Foss, Claudette Verville, Armand Verville, Jennifer Johnson, Joanne Stottlar, Kim Clark, Jan Thal, Marilyn Brison, Betty Ferguson, Keslie Thomas, Peter Letuinchuk, Paul Dusseault, Donna One, Helene Bockforo, Lee Slount, Jackie Perry, Michelle Kelly, Dennis Fowler, and Kris Fowler.

Others Present: Deborah Bulkley, Interim Principal and Mark Dangora, Assistant Principal.

Other Public Officials: Dana Clement, Sewer Commission

Allenstown Staff: Diane Demers, Financial Director; Paul Paquette, APD; Cyndi Hetu, Minutes Clerk; Paul St. Germain, AFD; Joyce Welch, ?; and Shaun Mulholland, Town Administrator.

NOTE: Joyce Welch title is Health Officer

Presentation of Warrant Articles

The Chair read Warrant Articles 6-10 and 18 to the audience with discussion permitted after the reading of each article.

Warrant Article 6

“Shall the Town of Allenstown raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling Three Million Six Hundred Seventy-Seven Thousand One Hundred Forty One Dollars (\$3,677,141.00). Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be Three Million Nine Hundred Four Thousand Two Hundred Sixty-Seven Dollars (\$3,904,267.00) which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town of Allenstown or by law, or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13 X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operations budget only. Passage of this article has an estimated tax rate impact of approximately \$0.54 per thousand dollars of assessed value.

NOTE: This warrant article (operating budget) does not include appropriations in ANY other warrant article.

The Budget Committee recommends this Article.”

Warrant Article 7

The Chair informed the audience that this year the Sewer Department is a separate Warrant Article from the Town Budget.

“Shall the Town of Allenstown raise and appropriate as an operating budget for the Allenstown Sewer Commission, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling Two Million Forty-four Thousand Eight Hundred and ninety-two Dollars (\$2,044,892.00) said sum to come from user fees. Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be Two Million Eighty-eight Thousand Two Hundred and Fifty-nine Dollars (\$2,088,259.00), also to come from user fees, which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town of Allenstown or by law, or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13 X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operations budget only. Passage of this article has no impact on the tax rate.

NOTE: This warrant article (operating budget) does not include appropriations in ANY other warrant article.

The Budget Committee recommends this Article.”

Warrant Article 8

“Shall the Town of Allenstown vote to authorize the Select Board to enter into a long-term five (5) year lease purchase agreement for One Hundred Sixty Four Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$164,500) for the purpose of acquiring a new dump truck with plows and sander for the Highway Department, and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$36,000 for the first year’s payment for that purpose. This lease agreement contains and escape clause. This vehicle will replace a 1990 Dump truck. Passage of this article has an estimated tax rate impact of approximately \$.15 per thousand dollars of assessed value.

The Select Board recommends this Article. The Budget Committee recommends this Article.”

Warrant Article 9

“Shall the Town of Allenstown raise and appropriate the sum Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) to be placed in the Landfill Capitol Reserve Fund. Passage of this article has an estimated tax rate impact of approximately \$.04 per thousand dollars of assessed value.

The Select Board recommends this Article. The Budget Committee recommends this Article.”

Mr. Fowler asked how much money is currently in the account at this moment. Mr. Mulholland stated that there is \$6.24 in the account right now.

Warrant Article 10

“Shall the town vote to establish an Accrued Benefits Liability Expendable Trust Fund, for the purpose of funding the costs of accrued employee vacation leave that is payable at the time of the employee separation or retirement and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 to be added to said fund to be funded from fund balance. Passage of this article has no impact on the tax rate.

The Select Board recommends this Article. The Budget Committee recommends this Article.”

Warrant Article 18

The undersigned, registered voters, Allenstown, NH support funding from the town in 2014-2015 in the amount of \$3,500 to support a share of the services provided to residents to access counseling and family support services, without regard to income from Child and Family Services. Child and Family Services provides accessible and affordable programs to children, youth and their families leading to stronger family connections, improved school performance

and better citizenship. From July 1, 2013-June 30, 2013, 98 Allenstown residents received over \$94,000 of free or reduced services from Child and Family Services, including mental health counseling, adoption planning, child abuse prevention and treatment, foster care, residential summer camping and elder care/independent living.

The Select Board does not recommend this Article. The Budget Committee does not recommend this Article.”

Mr. Fowler asked why both the Select Board and Budget Committee do not recommend this Article. The Chair explained that the way the article is written it is incorrect. He stated that the town’s fiscal year is for 2014 instead of 2014-2015. He also stated that nowhere in the article does it state “to raise and appropriate the sum” so that if it passes the Select Board would have to take the money out of the existing budget. Mr. Mulholland stated that the intent was to raise and appropriate they money for that purpose so that CFS needs to fix it and they need to fix the fiscal year error which they plan to do. He stated that they can vote on it at the Deliberative Session should the changes be made to the Article.

The Chair called for a recess at 9:18am.

The Chair called the meeting back to order at 9:26am.

School Board Warrant Article Presentation

“Shall the Allenstown School District vote to raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant article and other operations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling \$9,756,468. Should this article be defeated, the operating budget shall be \$9,756,468 which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Allenstown School District, or by law, or the governing body may hold one special meeting in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only.

The School Board recommends this Article. The Budget Committee recommends this Article.”

Mr. Verville asked if it was correct that the proposed budget and the default budget were the same. The Chair stated that it is correct that the two budget numbers are the same.

Motion. Mr. Caporale made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Anderson seconded the Motion. There was no additional discussion.

A Roll Call Vote was taken: Mr. Anderson – Yes; Mr. Caporale – Yes; Ms. Martel – Yes; Mr. Eaton – Yes; Mr. Coolidge-Yes; Mr. Frascinella – Yes; and Mrs. Carney - Yes. The Chair declared the Motion passed.

The Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 9:28am.